

¶ Orders for the Postes of our Realmes, and for all men to obserue and obey in the speedy carriage of Packets, directed for our Affaires.



Whereas heretofore the Lords of the Privie Counsell to the Queene our sister deceased, for great and weightie causes concerning the State, haue endeoured to set downe, and publish sundry Orders, and generall directions for matters of Posting, especially for the speedy dispatch of Packets and Letters importing the Princes immediate Affaires, the colour whereof serving private turnes, hath greatly frustrated their endeoures:

It is now therefore, for the better warrantie and direction of our Posts, thought meete and convenient, that the former Orders bee renewed, and (according to the necessitie of the times) renewed and published in our name in maner as followeth.

1. **F**irst, every Post receiuing a dayly Fee, and entertained specially for the Packet, according to the proportion of his wages by the day, shall keepe certaine Horses, to the number of two at the least, with furniture convenient, and those alwayes to haue at hand in a readinesse to runne with our Packets onely in Post, so soone as the same are brought to his hands. He shall haue also two Bags of Leather at the least well lined with Bayes or Cotton, to cary the Packet in, and Hornes to sound and blow, as oft as he meets company, or foure times in euery mile.
2. **E**very Post thus furnished, shall at all houres receiue and cary, or send away, all Packets or Letters brought vnto him, directed for our speciall Affaires, dated on the outside, with the time and place of their first deliuey, and subscribed by the hands of our Principall Secretaries, and Master and Comptroller generall of the Postes: And for matters of the Hauie, or to the Maritime Ports vpon the Sea coast, or principall Port Townes, by our Admirall of England: For matters of the Cinque Ports, by our Warden: For matters of Scotland, by our Treasurer and Secretary of Scotland: And for Ireland, by our Lieutenant the L. Mountioy, Or adressed to them in the proper businesse of their places, or to the body of our Counsell, from what persons or places whatsoever: Of whose names, and addresse onely, the Posts shall take notice, according to the first Institution, and Originall vse of their seruice, and of none other.
3. **E**very Post so receiuing our Packets, directed and subscribed as abovesaid, shall within one quarter of an houre at the most after they come to his handes, dispatch them away in Post, and shall runne therewith in Sommer (that is, from the first of April to the last of September) after seuen Miles the houre: and in Winter (which shalbe esteemed the rest of the yeere) after fve Miles the houre at the least, as the wayes affoord, and the Weather fall out.
4. **A**nd that it may appeare from time to time (When, and as often as it shall bee required) with what care and diligence the seruice is at all handes applied and performed, Every Post shall keepe a large and faire leger Paper Booke to enter our Packets in, as they shall be brought vnto him, with the day of the Moneth, houre of the day or night, that they came first to his handes, together with the name of him or them, by whom or vnto whom they were subscribed and directed, taking and entring onely such for our Packets, as come warranted as aforesaid, and all others to passe as by Letters.
5. **L**astly, to the end that the Posts generally may the better attend their senerall Seruices, and performe their duties in that behalfe, Our pleasure is, that they and euery of them shall brooke and enjoy the benefite of all former fauours allowed them, Namely, That they and their seruants be holden free and exempted from all Prests and attendances at Assises, Sessions, Inquests, and Musters.

Signed by his Maiestie, and subscribed by Sir John Stanhop Knight, Master and Comptroller generall of his Highnesse Postes.

God saue the King.

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